



# Role of Association of Towns and Municipalities in Energy Efficiency Initiatives

**Climate Change Fundamentals and Local Action  
UNDP Workshop**

**September 19-22, 2011  
Bratislava, Slovakia**

## Role of Association of Towns and Municipalities in Energy Efficiency Initiatives

---



**The Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia (Union/UTCS)** is voluntary association of cities founded on **April 29, 1994** in Košice at the initiative of the Club of Mayors of the Slovak Republic.

**UTCS** membership consist of large and medium-large cities:

78 cities, 5 municipalities and 5 special members that are municipal parts of Bratislava and Košice.

**Union** members represent more than 2,5 millions of Slovak inhabitants.

## Role of Association of Towns and Municipalities in Energy Efficiency Initiatives

---



### **Main Goals of the Union:**

- Promoting role of cities as centers of regions in the process of decentralization and public administration modernization;
- Supporting restoration and protection of the environment and cultural heritage
- Supporting development of cooperation of cities, municipalities and regions at pan-European level
- Encouraging partnerships of public, private and third sectors
- Supporting pan-European cooperation focus on **Local Agenda 21** and **Intelligent Energy Europe**
- Supporting and promoting **Covenant of Mayors**

## Role of Association of Towns and Municipalities in Energy Efficiency Initiatives

---



In **2004** on the initiative of **Energie-Cities** (the Association of European local authorities promoting local sustainable energy policy) was launched the process of creating national Interest Associations of Cities and Municipalities for sustainable Energy Efficiency

The main impulse - **BISE MEMORANDUM**  
(BISE - **Better Integration through Specific Exchanges for Sustainable Energy**)

Slovakia is one of the signatories and also belongs to other 22 States that work on the development of BISE initiative in the European context

**CITENERGO** – Interest Association of Cities  
and  
Municipalities for Sustainable Energy Efficiency



**CITENERGO** Association was created following initiative of the **Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia** and **Energy Centre Bratislava** in the framework of pan European BISE Process

Declaration of Association's establishment was signed on **October 12, 2007** in TRENČIN at the Union of Towns and Cities Presidium meeting

**CITENERGO** includes **9 full members** (Gelnica, Košice, Kremnica, Nitra, Prešov, Vrable, Šála, Hurbanovo, Kolarovo) and **4 associated members**



---

## **Main Goals of CITENERGO Association: information, administrative and expert support to Slovak Self-administration, especially at:**

- Preparation of energy policies
- Ensuring energy efficiency (EE) and the use of local renewable energy resources (LRER)
- Providing information on supporting financial mechanisms
- Mediation of financial and investment counselling in preparation and implementation of specific projects
- Accessing information database in the framework of pan European **Energy-Cities Association**
- Supporting and promoting of **Covenant of Mayor** at national and local level between the Slovak municipalities

## Role of Association of Towns and Municipalities in Energy Efficiency Initiatives

---

### **UTCS and CITENERGO in cooperation with Energy Centre Bratislava and expert partners offers to its members:**

- trainings of municipal managers and experts in the area of LRER and EE
- expert support in establishing and managing local energy agencies
- implementation of energy policies and action plans of energy efficiency
- exchange and dissemination of actual know-how from successful projects
- support in preparation and implementation of projects in the framework of grant schemes of the EU Structural funds
- lobbying and expert counseling in the legislative area at the national level

## Role of Association of Towns and Municipalities in Energy Efficiency initiatives

---

### **Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia and CITENERGO Association Funding:**

- **membership contributions of full and associate members**
- **sponsorships**
- **EU programs**
- **other grant schemes at national and European level**



## Role of Association of Towns and Municipalities in Energy Efficiency Initiatives

---



**The Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia** and **CITENERGO** Association realize the Intelligent Energy Europe Program at three levels:

1. Supporting of rational energy using focused on cities, municipalities and their inhabitants
2. Diversification and utilization of local renewable energy resources (LRER)
3. Capacity development actions

## INTELLIGENT ENERGY EUROPE Program – Capacity development actions

**Main events** realized by

**Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia (UTCS)**  
in cooperation with ENERGIE-CITÉS, Energy Centre  
Bratislava, SIEA Bratislava and other partners:

Regular working meetings – Virtual secretariat of  
national coordinators of associations for Intelligent  
Energy at local level (with support of Energie-Cités)

- Bratislava - 2005, 2006
- Budapest - 2006
- Prague - 2007

## INTELLIGENT ENERGY EUROPE Program – Capacity development actions

### Seminars, conferences and workshops

more than 40 during last 6 years (2006 -2011)

#### Main topics:

**Implementation of EU directions related to energy efficiency and utilization of renewable energy sources** (SIEA in the framework of the RUSE Program)

**Public Lighting** (*Slovak Lighting-Technical Company and Energy Centre Bratislava, UTCS*)

**Energy Services and Municipality** (*Energy Centre Bratislava, Centre for Public Lighting – CEVO*)

**Intelligent Energy Europe - 2, 2007 – 2013** (*EC – Ministry of Economy SR-ECB – UTCS*)

## INTELLIGENT ENERGY EUROPE Program – Capacity development actions

**Seminars, conferences and workshops, international  
campaign**

### Main topics:

**BELIEF – How to build sustainable communities  
through local partnerships** (*Energie-Cités* – ECB –  
*CEVO* – *UTCS*) Bratislava

**IMAGINE Campaign** –partnership creation of about 15 pilot  
European Cities– **Workshop in the framework of Open  
Days** (organizer-*Energie-Cités* Brussels, Presentation of  
**City of Prešov**)

Every year - **National Conferences** focused on **Energy  
Efficiency and Effective Energy Management - City  
and Municipality – Ratio-Energies**



## EU 2020 and the Covenant of Mayors

**EU2020 objectives** will not be achieved without the active involvement of municipalities, cities and regions equipped with the necessary capacity and support mechanisms.

The role of cities and regions is highlighted by the **EU energy policy**: Energy Strategy in 2011-2020; EE Action Plan; SET - Plan (Smart Cities)

The **Covenant of Mayors** is the mainstream European movement involving local and regional authorities, voluntarily committing to increasing energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources on their territories.

## Covenant of Mayors and Covenant Supporter



After the adoption in 2008 of the **EU Climate and Energy Package** the **European Commission** launched the **Covenant of Mayors** to endorse and support the efforts deployed by local authorities in the implementation of sustainable energy policies.

The **Covenant of Mayors** is the **mainstream European movement** involving local and regional authorities, voluntarily committing to increasing energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources on their territories.

By their commitment, **Covenant signatories** aim to meet and exceed the European Union 20% CO<sub>2</sub> reduction objective by 2020.

## Covenant of Mayors and Covenant Supporter



The **Covenant of Mayors** has been portrayed by European institutions as an ***exceptional model of multi-level governance.***

**CITENERGO Association** in strong cooperation with the **Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia, ECB-Bratislava** and other partners regularly informed the Slovak cities and towns about Covenant of Mayors office activities via the UTCS web-site.

The **Covenant of Mayors** was presented during the National Conference "City, Municipality – Effective Energy" in 2008 and 2009, 2010 and during the different training and workshops focus on municipal energy policy and energy efficiency.

## Covenant of Mayors and Covenant Supporter



**Signatories** represent cities that vary in size from small villages to major metropolitan areas such as London or Paris.

Within a year following their signature, **Covenant signatories** commit to implement **Sustainable Energy Action Plan** on their territory, with the aim of cutting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by at least 20% by 2020.

The list of European cities and municipalities that have signed up to the Covenant includes

**2867 Signatories.**





Situation of networking related to the **Covenant in Slovakia:**

**Moldava nad Bodvou** municipality and city of **Nitra** were sign the Covenant of Mayors.

**4** next municipalities from **Trnava region** (Malženice, Chtelnica, Drahovce) and **Trenčín region** (Pobedím) are planning to sign the Covenant at the end of 2011.



The **Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia** became a **Covenant Supporter** in **2011**

and it is committed to carry out the following tasks among its members:

Promote accession to the Covenant of Mayors (CoM) and to provide support and coordination to those members signing up

- Facilitate exchange of experience between signatories and candidates to the CoM
- Play an intermediary role between the members and Covenant of Mayor office and with the national /regional media
- Participate in discussions on the strategic implementation of the CoM initiatives proposed by the Commission

## NET- CoM, Networking the Covenant of Mayors



To date, the number of Covenant of Mayors signatories is high and still increasing. It is crucial that these local authorities' commitments be implemented successfully - thanks to the **power of networking**.

The **NET-COM project** (NETworking the COvenant of Mayors) aims at **empowering local authorities** (at both political and administrative levels) to implement successfully their current or future Covenant engagements.

Thus **NET-COM** directly supports the targets of the **EU Energy and Climate Package**.

The project is funded under the Intelligent Energy Europe. It is carried out by a consortium of 12 partners from 12 different European countries

## NET- CoM, Networking the Covenant of Mayors



The project is funded under the **Intelligent Energy Europe**. It is carried out by a consortium of 12 partners from 12 different European countries

In each country **Covenant Networking Platforms** will be created to ensure:

- better communication and exchanges among local authorities (Covenant Signatories or not) which want to improve their own capacities and effectiveness to achieve the Covenant goals;
- better communication, exchanges and synergies between local authorities and key actors such as public institutions (ministries, national/regional agencies, regions, provinces, associations of local and regional authorities) and any other stakeholders (businesses, NGOs, associations, etc.) willing to support local authorities in their efforts to achieve the Covenant objectives.

## NET- CoM, Networking the Covenant of Mayors



The continuous capacity building of the European, national and regional **networks of local authorities** will be crucial for the coming years.

**NET-CoM** project will set up a permanent cooperation among the networks in order to benchmark their experiences, practices, tools and working methods.

**CITENERGO** and **the Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia** will focus their efforts on the strengthening this Net-work and on the implementation successfully their members current or future Covenant engagements.

# Role of Association of Towns and Municipalities in Energy Efficiency Initiatives

---



## **Contact:**

**Natalia Šovkoplías, Public Relation Manager**

**The Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia  
ZZ MO TUEE CITENERGO**

**Biela 6  
811 01 Bratislava**

**tel./fax: +421 2 54 435914**

**e-mail: [umosr@gtinet.sk](mailto:umosr@gtinet.sk)**

**[www.unia-miest.eu](http://www.unia-miest.eu)**